



Medical School Hotline

The Department of Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology (DPHSE)

**Satoru Izutsu, Ph.D. , Associate Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii**

On June 5, 2000, the University of Hawaii School of Public Health, with a rich and proud history, ended its accredited status with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), primarily due to budgetary constraints imposed by the State's depressed economy. The remaining faculty, staff and students will join the John A. Burns School of Medicine as a Department of Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology beginning in the Fall 2000 semester.

The School of Public Health began as a Department in 1962 and was accredited as a School in 1965. The School's primary goal was "to promote the appropriate application of public health principles, both in those U.S. communities with multicultural populations and the international arena."¹ The School's activities specifically addressed the public health needs of Hawai'i and the Asia/Pacific Basin Region. The School's curricula offered specialization areas in community health education and development, health services administration and planning, maternal and child health, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, and epidemiology.

By its thirty-eighth year, the School had graduated 3,027 students with a Master of Public Health, 310 students with a Master of Science in Public Health, 85 with a Doctorate of Public Health, and 40 with a Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences (Biostatistics and Epidemiology). Today, graduates are located throughout the world with concentrated numbers in Hawaii, the Pacific Basin countries, South and Southeast Asia and Asia. Many are in the highest offices of health and government.

An Associate Dean for Public Health will lead the conversion of the School into a Department. The Associate Dean's responsibility will be to oversee the redevelopment of the new academic program to assure that there will be strength in the not too distant future to seek reaccreditation as a School of Public Health.

Timely, efficient, and smooth transition of the School of Public Health into the School of Medicine was planned by twenty-three faculty and staff from both schools, appointed by the Dean of the School of Medicine. Four subcommittees were organized; Finance/Administrative Support, Space Allocation, Student Services, and Educational/Faculty Resources. The key features of the reports from the subcommittee included the following: establishing a Department of Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology in the School of Medicine; transferring three of the 12 remaining faculty to positions within the University; assigning all non-faculty personnel to appropriate positions within the new department and the school of medicine; merging the finance office and personnel with that of the School of Medicine; expanding the School of Public Health library to support both the Department and the School of Medicine; providing up to seven FTEs for recruitment (four from the Department of

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In Memoriam



LEE MC CASLIN, age 86, former executive director of the Hawaii Medical Association from 1956 to 1970, passed away May 23, 2000 at her home. Lee also served as managing editor of *Hawaii Medical Journal* which won numerous awards during her tenure. In September 1991, at the 50th anniversary celebration of HMJ, she reminded us that the history of Hawaii Medical Association and the growth and changes in the medical community, will long be remembered through the Journal. And perhaps 100 years from now, no one will remember that the Journal at one time accepted cigarette advertising.

Lee came to Hawaii about the same time the Journal began when she and 3 or 4 friends from Los Angeles took a late fall vacation to Honolulu on the Lurline. They timed it perfectly as they were caught by the December 7th attack and there was no way home. Although her West Coast family just couldn't imagine how Lee could even get a square meal, much less defend herself against continued enemy attack, the only answer from Lee was that she was fine and eating well.

She went to work for Theo H. Davies and legend has it that she was to receive an award for being the top salesman in the country for promotion of a canned meat product that is still tops in the Islands today. When the award presenters found out she was a woman, they not only withdrew the award but withdrew the account! She relished that story, especially since she always used her middle name, Lee, so that no one could discern her gender.

During her tenure at the Hawaii Medical Association, membership grew and expanded. The Association was deeply involved with the national organization, the American Medical Association, and focused on issues such as quality of care, legislation, development of the worker's compensation medical program, development of the Medicaid program, the Hawaii Tumor Registry, and relationships with health insurers.

Following her employment at HMA, she became a successful realtor and broker. She became enamored of any and all things Japanese, studying the Japanese language at every opportunity. She lived in Tokyo from the late 70's until the mid-80's, working for an American company that taught English to young Japanese business executives. While there, she met another teacher, Tom Hasegawa. She married Tom and together they returned to Honolulu. They both were very involved in real estate. Lee is also survived by cousins Jack Ketcham and Tracie Ferreira and *hanai* daughter Karen.

Health and three from retired/held positions); and, initiating a public health program in epidemiology with courses offered in all other four required disciplines of Public Health (health administration, environmental health, social and behavioral health and biostatistics). The Education Committee recommended that there be a rigorous annual review process that will be an integral part of faculty evaluation with objective criteria stressing publication in peer reviewed national and international journals. It is envisioned that students who are currently matriculated will be accommodated to complete the requirements towards the Master of Public Health or Master of Science degree.

Initially, the Department of Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology will offer the MPH and MS degrees in Public Health with concentration in epidemiology. An objective of the newly formed Department will be to apply for accreditation as a Program by the Council of Education in Public Health.

To meet CEPH standards, one introductory course in each of the five program specialties in Public Health will be taught. The five areas include epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, social science (health education), and health services administration and planning (or related area). In addition to the five core courses, basic and advance epidemiology will be required. A prototype epidemiology program will offer 30 or more courses that include: HIV/AIDS epidemiology, epidemiologic methods, epidemiologic surveillance and outbreaks investigation, computer assisted analysis of epidemiologic data, and epidemiologic field methods (an applied public health endeavor in which students conduct field projects). Epidemiology electives will include the following areas: nutrition, genetics, environment, aging AIDS, cancer and heart disease. Also required in epidemiology training will be a series of courses in biostatistics. The courses include research methods, categorical analysis, survival analysis, regression methods, survey methods and sampling. Finally, each graduate student must form a committee of two or more members from the epidemiology faculty.²

The new department will begin with two epidemiologists, a biostatistician, seven faculty in social science, maternal child health, and health services administration and planning. Anticipated are percentage joint appointments of faculty from the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii, Department of Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology), and the State Department of Health. Applications for students are available.

Dr. Edwin C. Cadman, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine commented, "Epidemiology is often misunderstood, but it is not just the evaluation of data to produce incidence rates of diseases. It is the science of diseases or health problems in populations. Examples are cancer epidemiology (association related to causation of cancer); nutritional epidemiology (foods associated with diseases, for example, risk factors for heart diseases); infectious disease epidemiology (why certain population get liver infections, TB, HIV, the flu, etc.); aging; homelessness; violence in schools; and, substance abuse. The faculty have interests in these areas and have produced scholarly work in many of these fields." He added in a report to the administration, "I believe the future of public health at the University of Hawaii is something much greater than the current reputation. The key success factors are all the individuals, faculty, community leaders, staff, and state officials who have indicated their commitment to assure the renaissance of the School of Public Health."

References:

1. 1999-2000 School of Public Health Bulletin, College of Health Sciences and Social Welfare, University of Hawaii at Manoa.
2. School of Public Health Reorganization Committee. Recommendations of the Education Subcommittee, April 2000.



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